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## Pressure for Drugs Denied by Donovan

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Attorney James B. Donovan declared last night that the Federal Government did not put any pressure on American pharmaceutical firms to donate drugs used as ransom in the Cuban prisoner exchange.

Mr. Donovan said that the Justice Department did advise the firms on various legal problems surrounding the drug donations.

The Justice Department, he said, also aided in arranging the logistics of collecting and transporting the drugs.

Mr. Donovan represented the Cuban Families Committee in obtaining the release of 1,113 invasion prisoners last December, in exchange for \$62.5 million worth of drugs and food. This was the figure he cited last night.

In recent weeks 2,800 more refugees have returned to the United States in planes and

ships which carried the food and drugs to Cuba.

Mr. Donovan said last night he would fly to Havana in the next two weeks to conclude arrangements for release of 25 Americans still held. The basis for their release are already negotiated, at least partly, he noted in his talk at the monthly meeting of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia.

Attorney General Kennedy advised the Cuban committee to ask Mr. Donovan to attempt the negotiations, the lawyer said.

Subsequently, Mr. Donovan said, the Attorney General personally confirmed that he had suggested that the Cubans contact Mr. Donovan, who added that he had never met Mr. Kennedy before the Cuban families approached him.

Mr. Donovan explained that Justice Department attorneys advised the drug companies on

tax questions, possible anti-trust problems and exportation difficulties involving the drugs in the prisoner exchange.

Four of the volunteer Washington attorneys who solicited the donations appeared with Mr. Donovan at the meeting. They were John W. Douglas, John E. Nolan, jr.; Raymond J. Rasenberger and E. Barrett Prettyman, jr.

Mr. Donovan said he believed most of the firms donated the goods because "they wanted to see the albatross re-

moved from around America's neck."

He also said there were various other motives ranging from tax deductions to personal contacts with Cuba.

However, he added that the deductions would be permitted at the American wholesale price of the drugs and not at the retail price so that no firms would conceivably make a profit from the donations.

He said that the Cuban market price of the goods in Cuba was \$62.5 million but that they would cost substantially less in this country.